



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Wasatch-Cache
National Forest
Supervisors Office

8236 Federal Building
125 South State Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84138

File Code: 1950

Date: July 29, 2002


Dear Uinta and Wasatch-Cache National Forests shareholder:

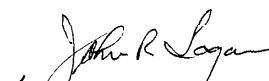
This quarterly schedule lists the various projects proposed on the Uinta and Wasatch-Cache National Forests which require environmental analysis. The projects listed have either been recently completed, are currently being analyzed or are anticipated to begin environmental analysis soon. In addition to project analysis we also list other types of analyses employees are conducting. This information is intended to make you aware of activities so you can become involved in those which may be of particular interest. Your comments are invaluable to us as we identify important concerns and recognize opportunities that may be available.

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has formed a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Task Force composed of representatives from a variety of federal agencies. The purpose of the task force is to seek ways to improve and modernize NEPA analysis and documentation and to foster improved coordination among all levels of government and the public. They are seeking responses by August 23, 2002 from the public on a variety of questions such as a preferred method for receiving information about NEPA analyses. Responses from the public can be helpful to the task force in identifying opportunities to enhance the NEPA process. You can find more information via the NEPA Task Force link on the CEQ website at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/ceq>.

We welcome your continuing interest in National Forest activities. Please review the enclosed information and feel free to contact any of the people shown as contacts for projects of interest to you.

Sincerely,


THOMAS L. TIDWELL
Forest Supervisor
Wasatch-Cache National Forest


PETER W. KARP
Forest Supervisor
Uinta National Forest

Enclosure



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The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was passed by Congress to foster better decision-making by officials. Its mandate is to insure information is available and considered before decisions and actions are implemented. The established process is quite straight forward.

**Identify a Need
Make a Proposal
Inform the Public
Identify Concerns
Develop Alternatives
Prepare an EA or EIS
Public Review of Analysis
Make a Decision**

TERMS USED

Knowing the "NEPA language" is the first step in understanding this process. The following is a short list of common terms used to describe NEPA activities.

Alternatives - Once the issues surrounding a proposal are clear, alternatives are developed to achieve the project and respond to issues identified. All of the alternatives may not address all issues equally, but we strive to address all issues within the array of alternatives considered in detailed.

Categorical Exclusion - The level of analysis used for projects falling into one of several categories, for which neither an Environmental Impact Statement nor an Environmental Assessment is required.

Environmental Assessment (EA) - The environmental document prepared when we believe a project will not have significant environmental effects.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - The environmental document prepared when we suspect a project may have significant effects. **DEIS** is the draft, **FEIS** is the final.

Scoping - Informing the public of a proposal and soliciting public participation specific to that proposal. Usually assigned a certain time frame, but comments are often acknowledged after the "deadline."

Section 1 - Forest Plan Revisions and Amendments

In response to the National Forest Management Act direction and public/agency management needs, the Uinta and Wasatch-Cache National Forests are revising their individual Forest Plans. Specifics for each Forest are outlined below:

UINTA NATIONAL FOREST, SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

88 West 100 North

Provo, UT 84601 (801) 342-5100

In 1997, we began work in preparation for the Forest Plan revision. A Preliminary Assessment of the Management Situation was released for public review and comment on September 30, 1999. This included an assessment of the current conditions on the Forest and information about what we will be addressing in the forest plan revision. With publication of the Notice of Intent on September 30, 1999, the Forest initiated scoping for revision of the Forest Plan. Four public meetings to discuss the revision were held in October and November. The Forest received over 300 comments during this period. Two additional public workshops were held in March and April of 2000 to verify issues and provide opportunities for the public to review and comment on the preliminary drafts of the alternatives. As a result of these meetings, three additional alternatives were developed, increasing the number of alternatives analyzed in detail to six. These alternatives were analyzed, and documented in the Draft EIS, which was released for public review and comment, along with the Draft Revised Forest Plan, on May 4, 2001. The Draft EIS and Draft Revised Forest Plan identified two preferred alternatives. Four open houses for this project were held in June, and one in August of 2001. The initial 90-day public comment period on the Draft EIS and Draft Revised Forest Plan was extended. The public comment period was scheduled to end August 2, 2001, but subsequently extended until October 1, 2001. We received nearly 1,200 comments on the Draft EIS and Draft Revised Forest Plan. A preliminary analysis of the comments was completed in April 2002. A Final EIS, Revised Forest Plan and Record of Decision are tentatively scheduled for release in late fall/early winter of 2002. Copies of the Draft EIS and Draft Revised Forest Plan are available in hard copy (paper), on CD-ROM, or may be accessed via the Uinta National Forest website at www.fs.fed.us/r4/uinta. Call Marlene DePietro at the number above for further information.

WASATCH-CACHE NATIONAL FOREST, SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

8236 Federal Building, 125 South State Street

Salt Lake City, UT 84138 (801) 524-3900

The Notice of Intent was published in September 1999 and formally began the revision analysis process. Public meetings to discuss the revision were held in October and November of 1999. The Forest developed six alternatives based on public input. A Draft EIS and Proposed Forest Plan were released for public review and comment on May 9, 2001. In June a series of seven public open houses to explain the Proposed Plan were held in communities near the forest. Oral Comment Forums were held in Logan on October 11, Salt Lake City on October 16 and Evanston, Wyoming on October 17. The public comment period ended November 1, 2001. Nearly 3,600 responses were received. An Executive Summary of the content analysis has been posted on our website. A newsletter was sent to interested parties in late June, 2002. The Planning Team is working on responding to public concerns and finalizing the EIS and Forest Plan. A Final EIS, Revised Forest Plan and Record of Decision are tentatively scheduled for release in late fall/early winter of 2002. Copies of the Draft EIS and Proposed Forest Plan are available in hard copy (paper), on CD-ROM, or may be accessed via our website at www.fs.fed.us/wcnf. Call Kelli Green at 524-3906 for further information.

Section 2 - Project Specific Analysis

UINTA NATIONAL FOREST

HEBER RANGER DISTRICT

2460 South Highway 40

Heber City, UT 84032 (801) 654-0470

Project Name	Location	Scoping Date	Projected Decision Date	Contact Person
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RANGE

Water Development Reconstruction	District Wide	1/2001	Spring 2003	Jim Percy
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Project Description: The proposed actions are to replace existing head boxes, fence the spring area and pipe water further away from the riparian area for the following water developments:

Mahoney Springs – Located on the East Daniels Cattle Allotment in Section 5, Township 2 South, Range 11 West. Project implementation is scheduled for fall 2003.

Willow Creek Water Development – Located on the East Daniels Cattle Allotment in Section 36, Township 1 South, Range 12 West. Project implementation is scheduled for summer 2002.

Bjorkman Water Development - This project is located on the East Daniels Cattle Allotment. The project starts near Currant Creek Peak and goes to a catch pond in Erickson Draw. Sections 19, 30, Township 1 South, Range 11 West and sections 25, 26, 36, Township 1 South, Range 12 West, Uinta Special Meridian. Project implementation is scheduled for fall 2003.

Status and Comments: Scoping has been completed for each of the projects except the Bjorkman Water Development. Scoping for Bjorkman Water Development is slated to start in fall of 2002. The environmental analysis is expected to result in these projects being categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement. The environmental analyses are scheduled for completion during spring 2003. The projects are slated for implementation during 2003 and 2004.

Allotment Management Plan Revision	Little Sand Creek/ Red Creek Mountain Allotments	1/2001	Spring 2003	Jim Percy
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Project Description: Develop a new Allotment Management Plan for the Little Sand Creek and Red Creek Mountain sheep allotments.

Status and Comments: Scoping has been completed. The environmental analysis is scheduled for completion in spring of 2003, and the project is slated for implementation in the summer of 2003.

Project Name	Location	Scoping Date	Projected Decision Date	Contact Person
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Allotment Management Plan Revision	Heber Mountain/Lake Creek Allotments	1/2001	Fall 2002	Jim Percy
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Project Description: The proposed action is to develop a new Allotment Management Plan for the Heber Mountain and Lake Creek Sheep Allotments.

Status and Comments: Scoping has been completed. The environmental analysis is scheduled for completion during fall 2002, and project implementation for the summer of 2003.

RECREATION

Little South Fork and Willow Hollow Trails Reconstruction	South Hollow Drainage	Summer 2002	Fall 2002	Lisa Heiser
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Project Description: The South Hollow Fire, which occurred in August and September of 2001, impacted the Little South Fork and Willow Hollow Trails. Approximately 4 miles of trail were obliterated by fireline construction and rehabilitation efforts. The proposed action is to reconstruct about 1.5 miles of the Little South Fork, and 2.5 miles of the Willow Hollow Trails.

Status and Comments: Scoping will commence in summer of 2002. The environmental analysis is expected to result in this project being categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement. The environmental analyses are scheduled for completion this summer. The project is slated for implementation during the fall of 2002.

ROAD MANAGEMENT

Little Valley Road Relocation	Little Valley near Wallsburg	4/2001	Winter 2003	Doug Page
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Project Description: The recent road improvements in the Little Valley area have identified the need to relocate approximately 100 yards of dirt road away from the riparian area. The existing road will be rehabilitated and a new road alignment installed for this area. In addition the need to harden the creek crossing by the corral and above it will be evaluated.

Status and Comments: This project has been scoped. A pre-decisional EA is being prepared and is scheduled to be released for public review and comment in the fall of 2002.

Project Name	Location	Scoping Date	Projected Decision Date	Contact Person
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VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Wolf Creek Blowdown Salvage Timber Sale	Wolf Creek drainage	Spring 2002	Summer/Fall 2002	Doug Page
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Project Description: During the spring of 2001, the north end of the Heber District experienced thunderstorm activity accompanied by strong winds. This event resulted in toppling of about 200 Engelmann spruce trees in the Wolf Creek area. Timber stands in these areas are experiencing buildups in spruce beetle populations, and the presence of this many large down spruce trees creates a high potential for accelerating the spruce beetle buildup. The proposal is to remove the down trees via small salvage timber sale. Less than 100 thousand board feet of timber would be salvaged.

Status and Comments: Scoping is commenced this spring. An environmental analysis has been prepared and a decision is expected this summer. The project is tentatively scheduled for implementation in the summer or fall 2002.

West Fork Dixie Harrow Vegetation Improvement Project	West Fork Duchesne	Fall 2002	Spring 2003	Jim Percy
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Project Description: The proposed action is to use a Dixie harrow to improve vegetation and ground cover conditions in selected sagebrush stands in the West Fork Duchesne River, Sections 26 and 27, T1N, R11W, and Sections 25 and 26, T1N, R10W. Specific project locations are identified on maps in the project folder, which resides on the Heber Ranger District. The total area proposed for treatment is 60 to 80 acres.

Status and Comments: Scoping is scheduled to begin in fall of 2002. The environmental analysis is expected to result in this project being categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. The environmental analysis is scheduled for completion during spring of 2003, with implementation during fall of 2003.

Shingle Mill Timber Sale	Mill Hollow Watershed	Summer 2002	Winter 2002/2003	Doug Page
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Project Description: Vegetation management proposals include possible selection harvest to improve forest health and reduce susceptibility to insect and disease outbreaks. The area was previously harvested approximately 30 years ago. There would be no new road construction anticipated. The project area will likely encompass approximately 1,000 acres.

Status and Comments: This project was previously referred to as the East Mill Hollow Timber Sale. Scoping will commence in the summer of 2002. The environmental analysis is expected to result in preparation of an Environmental Assessment. The EA is scheduled to be completed in the winter of 2002/2003, and a decision issued in 2003.
